



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TEMPORARY GREENWAY (3000 – 3500 blocks of Irving Avenue North)

Updated August 2016

This document provides answers to commonly asked questions about the temporary greenway including responses to questions submitted by residents through various feedback channels. It will be updated regularly throughout the year.

Where is the temporary greenway?

The temporary greenway has been installed on five blocks of Irving Avenue North between Folwell and Jordan Parks (the 3000-3500 blocks).

Why were these blocks selected for the temporary greenway?

These blocks were selected based on strong support for the greenway among residents living along these blocks (see [2014 Community Engagement Report](#)) and guidance from City Council President Johnson and City Council Member Yang. The City and community organizations conducted years of resident engagement along the 5-block temporary greenway route, including surveys in 2014 and 2015, multiple outreach events in the neighborhood, door-knocking and mailed letters to residents and property owners during the summer and fall of 2015. Survey results from 2014 showed high levels of support and low levels of opposition among people living on the temporary route; however, many shared concerns about safety, crime, parking, and emergency vehicle access. This initial feedback was used to inform the design of the temporary greenway.

How long will the temporary greenway be in place and what will happen once it's removed?

Current plans call for the temporary greenway to remain in place for up to one year (approximately June 2017). The Minneapolis City Council will then decide whether or not to include permanent construction of the greenway in its long-term capital funding plans.

How was the temporary installation communicated to residents living on the blocks?

In 2016, residents and property owners on the five affected blocks of Irving Avenue North and the adjacent blocks of Humboldt and James Avenue North were notified of the temporary greenway installation via three written letters mailed to homes in April, May, and June 2016. In an attempt to differentiate these letters from other City mailings, envelopes were marked with a special Northside Greenway sticker above the mailing label. In addition to the letters, City staff and community partners visited every house along the affected blocks of Irving Avenue North on Saturday, May 14 and spoke with residents directly or left flyers for those residents who were not home or did not answer their doors.

How can residents provide feedback on the temporary greenway?

Residents can provide feedback and report issues concerning the temporary greenway in any of the following ways:

- Contact Minneapolis 311 (call 612-673-3000 if outside Minneapolis city limits).
- Email the Minneapolis Health Department at healthyliving@minneapolismn.gov.

- Complete an online survey via a link on the [Northside Greenway project](#) website.
- Fill out a comment card located in the informational kiosks at either end of the temporary greenway.
- Share your thoughts at the June 25 grand opening event or at additional greenway events throughout the year.

What kind of feedback has the City received so far?

As of July 31, the City has received 220 comments regarding the North Minneapolis temporary greenway. A wide range of resident feedback has been submitted including support for the project, opposition to the project, specific concerns, suggestions for improvements and clarifying questions. An initial summary report of resident feedback received is available on the Northside Greenway website: <http://minneapolismn.gov/health/living/pa/temporarydemonstration>. The City will continue to collect feedback and regularly share summary reports back to the community on a regular basis.

How is the City responding to the feedback?

As a result of residents' feedback, the City has made the following immediate adjustments along the route:

- Adjusted placement of crosswalk signs to provide more space for cars to pass through and turn.
- Moved traffic barriers to better accommodate emergency and service vehicles.
- Moved flower planters closer to curbs to allow for wider traffic lanes.
- Removed hammocks on the 3500 block.
- Trimmed two trees and lowered two "No Turns" signs on the northern end of the 3400 block to improve visibility.
- Installed additional litter receptacles on the 3000 and 3500 blocks and are in the process of installing additional receptacles on the 3300 and 3400 blocks. Added a second day of trash pick-up each week (litter receptacles on the route will now be emptied by the City twice per week).
- Worked with Metro Mobility and Minneapolis Public Schools to fix specific resident access issues.
- Anchored fixtures that were previously being moved by children to accommodate play.
- Installed two additional "night watch" lights in each alley along the temporary greenway route.

The City acknowledges that residents' concerns with some aspects of the temporary greenway (e.g. reduced parking) cannot be easily addressed due to the very nature and intent of a greenway, which is to prioritize space for pedestrians and bicyclists over vehicle traffic. The goal of the temporary installation is to test various greenway conditions and better understand residents' experiences living with such compromises. The City will continue to carefully consider all feedback from residents and use the information to make real-time adjustments as well as long-term decisions.

Will emergency vehicles still have access to homes?

Yes. Emergency vehicles such as police cars, ambulances and fire trucks have full access along all five blocks of the temporary greenway, including the 3500 block, as they are equipped to drive over the yellow posts.

Will Metro Mobility have access to houses on the temporary greenway route?

Yes. On the 3000 – 3400 blocks of Irving Avenue North, Metro Mobility will pick up and drop off residents in front of their homes as usual. On the 3500 block of Irving Avenue North, they will pick up and drop off residents using the alleys. In the event that alley access on this block is unsuitable, Metro Mobility can pick up residents in front of their homes once residents obtain a Disability Transfer Space (see Disability Parking section below). For questions, residents can call Metro Mobility: 651-602-1111 (TTY 651-221-9886).

Where can residents and visitors park?

Though parking has been reduced, residents and visitors can park on all blocks of the temporary greenway

except the 3500 block of Irving Avenue North, which is closed to residential vehicle traffic. Residents and visitors of this block can park in garages and parking pads behind their homes and on surrounding streets. Because of these changes, residents may notice more parked cars on streets adjacent to the greenway. Please understand that people are allowed to park in a spot on public streets up to 72 hours in a row. For residents who are responsible for a vehicle, it is important to know that a City ordinance prohibits parking in the same spot on public streets for longer than 72 hours in a row. To avoid a car being ticketed and towed, please do not leave it in the same spot on a public street for longer than 72 hours (three days).

Where can residents with disabilities park?

Residents living on the 3000—3400 blocks who are disabled and need parking in front of their homes can apply for a *Disability Parking Space*. Residents can apply online or call 311 for assistance. More information is available on the North Minneapolis greenway website under the “Important Resources” section:

www.minneapolismn.gov/northsidegreenway.

Residents on the 3500 block who are disabled and need transportation access at the front of their homes can apply for a *Disability Transfer Zone*, which can be used to actively load and unload disabled residents and their equipment and personal items. The zone cannot be used for parking. The transfer zone allows anyone (Metro Mobility, a medical cab service, family or friends) to pick up and drop off a resident who is disabled. Residents can apply online (see the North Minneapolis greenway website for more information) or call 311 for assistance.

Applications are reviewed and approved by City Council members. Once approved, the City of Minneapolis will install signs that designate the parking area or transfer zone. The entire process takes about 30 days.

Can residents get access to the front of their homes for large deliveries that can’t be accepted through the alley?

Yes. Up to 30 minutes of access for commercial deliveries is allowed per City ordinance in No Parking zones.

What if residents need additional temporary access to the front of their house (examples: for construction, renovation, or moving vehicles)?

Residents can use the City’s regular obstruction permitting process. Call 311 or find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/mdr/streetusepermits/index.htm.

Who will maintain the streets during the temporary greenway?

The City of Minneapolis will continue to maintain the public infrastructure, including sewer and water service, snow and ice control along open traffic lanes and the alleys. Northside-based Project Sweetie Pie is currently providing maintenance, including trash pick-up and watering and replanting plants (through a subcontract with WHR Ecological). See more information about snow clearance in the next question.

How will the City effectively plow snow along the temporary greenway?

In addition to regular snow plowing, the City will hire a contractor to conduct enhanced snow and ice removal on the greenway route using smaller snow plows that allow for careful plowing around greenway amenities such as the picnic tables and flower planters. The contractor will also provide enhanced snow clearance in alleys (in addition to the snow plowing already provided by the City). The contractor will be selected by a competitive bid process that should be completed by the end of October 2016.

How safe will the temporary greenway be?

The greenway is intended as a place for people to gather and to travel through safely on bike and foot. [Research](#) shows that when new parks or green spaces are added in cities, safety usually stays the same or improves. The

City is pursuing the following strategies to address safety concerns along the temporary greenway route and adjacent alleys:

- **Alley lighting:** Through a program with Xcel Energy, the City installed two additional overhead lights in the alley of each block along the route. During the temporary greenway project period, there will be no charge to residents for this additional lighting and residents may request to have these lights removed at any time if desired. Residents may also choose to cover the cost for these lights to remain in place permanently; otherwise they will be removed at the end of the temporary greenway project period.
- **Alley monitoring:** The Minneapolis Police Department will provide an increased presence on the greenway and in alleys, including patrol cars and officers. Police officers will share information with project staff so that safety concerns can be addressed throughout the year. In addition, City of Minneapolis housing inspectors will drive through alleys during their normal inspections of houses along the route to provide additional monitoring.
- **Block clubs:** Residents are encouraged to start block clubs if their blocks don't already have them. Police can assist with this through their block club program. (Find more information here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/blockclubs/index.htm> or call 311).
- **911:** As always, if you feel unsafe anywhere, you should call 911.

How can children play safely on the greenway streets?

On the 3500 block, children are protected from motorized vehicles because the block is closed off to residential traffic. On the other blocks, children are protected from motorized vehicles on the sidewalks and painted bump-out areas, which are meant to be designated, protective spaces. While these are low-traffic streets, children and their caregivers should take the same safety precautions they take on any street.

Why were the middle blocks (3200, 3300 and 3400 blocks) changed from the “half-and-half” design to the current “bike boulevard” design?

During the summer of 2014, the City shared a demonstration proposal that included a full greenway design on three blocks (3000, 3400, and 3500) and a half-and-half design on two blocks (3200 and 3300 blocks). Because the installation bids for this proposal exceeded the available budget for the temporary installation, the City revised the designs to their [current form](#). The temporary greenway allows residents to experience and provide input on all three of the design options (full greenway, half-and-half, and bike boulevards).

Why aren't there dedicated bike lanes on most blocks?

In accordance with the temporary greenway design plans shared with residents, the full greenway block (3500 block) includes a striped bike lane, while the half-and-half block (3000 block) has a protected space for bicyclists traveling southbound (bicyclists travelling northbound share the road with cars). The middle blocks (3200, 3300, and 3400 blocks) are bike boulevards, where bicyclists and cars share the traffic lane. In Minneapolis, bike boulevards do not typically have designated, striped bike lanes. The City will install additional signs or pavement markings on the 3200-3400 blocks to indicate that motorists and bicyclists should share the traffic lane.

How can bicyclists and motorists interact safely on the bike boulevards?

Bike boulevards are intended to prioritize bicycles over car traffic. Drivers may only pass a bicyclist at a safe speed and only if there is a legally safe passing distance of at least 3 feet. Bicyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals and must yield to pedestrians and motorists who have the right-of-way. This [video](#) shows bicyclists and motorists how to safely use this type of shared space.

What is the purpose of the bump-out areas on each block?

The bump-out areas, called chicanes, are designed to slow traffic and provide a protected area for people to gather.

What does the temporary greenway cost and how is it funded?

The estimated cost for the temporary greenway is \$287,920 through June 2017. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the expenses are covered with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and a Community Wellness Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

How will the temporary greenway demonstration be evaluated?

In addition to the ongoing feedback that residents send while the temporary greenway is in place, the City of Minneapolis is also evaluating the project in the following ways:

- Survey of all residents along the route to hear their experiences and ideas for improvements and determine their support for a greenway.
- Observational studies to see how people are using the space, the impact on parking and the condition of greenway amenities.
- Traffic counts to determine the impact of the greenway on car and bicycle traffic along the route and adjacent blocks.
- Crime statistics for the neighborhood surrounding the greenway.
- Cost of and issues related to maintaining the greenway (enhanced snow plowing and ice removal, etc.).

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Minneapolis Department of Health at (612) 673-2301 or email healthyliving@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700, Rau kev pab 612-673-2800, Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.